

President Obama this week finally elaborated on our nation's mission in Libya several days after our military involvement began. As I previously [commented](#) , I share his assessment that the democratic uprisings in that Arab country and several others in the region affirm that people from different faiths and ethnicities desire basic human rights, including the freedom to choose their leaders. I was also pleased to hear that the U.S.-led coalition has been successful in protecting Libyan citizens from a potential humanitarian crisis.

With that said, I am very concerned that the President's policy remains marred by uncertainty. He did not answer key questions about the extent of U.S. involvement, such as whether he would support using U.S. personnel and resources to help arm the opposition forces. Further, he stated that he believes Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi must go but stressed that he does not support using military force to accomplish that objective. He did not address, however, whether our armed forces will stay in Libya indefinitely so long as Gaddafi holds power and poses a humanitarian threat, in the event that diplomatic and economic pressure and the no fly zone do not force him out. Americans have a right to know the answers to these fundamental questions.

I'm also concerned that the Obama Administration made it a priority to get the advice and approval of the United Nations rather than Congress. While I do not object to building coalitions prior to military action, I believe the President's disregard for the constitutional role of Congress only made it more difficult for him to define the mission to the American people and earn their support. Now that our Air Force and Navy are fully engaged in the Libyan conflict, I offer them my strongest support and will work to ensure that Congress provides the resources they need. But I hope that in the future, rather than looking to the United Nations, President Obama will turn to Congress and be upfront with the American people before committing our brave men and women to war.

## President's Libya Policy Lacks Clarity, Regard for Congress

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